

Dear FCC,

I am writing to you today to urge that you retain the current set of ownership rules that are now in place. I am very concerned that the possible changes to these rules (No. 02-277) would allow too much consolidation and that in turn threatens the public's right to information.

I am aware of the arguments in favor of changing the rules - i.e. that the change is needed to keep up with the changing times, to keep free broadcasting more competitive (and hence, higher quality), etc. However, I do not feel that these arguments supercede other issues at hand.

Though the public does now have many options for obtaining information, as a smaller number of media conglomerates control ever greater numbers of these outlets, information is inherently limited. The public typically is unaware that numerous radio stations, for example, are all owned by the same company. They won't realize that it's all coming from the same source.

Information is at the core of our democracy. Keeping information freely accessible is absolutely essential. The airways are publically-owned, for the public good, and we must keep it that way.

Thus, I urge you to postpone deciding on the rules until after ample time is given for public comment. June 2 is too soon. Additional hearings must also be held.

Sincerely,
Pernell Plath